

5 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Product Review Division

SUBJECT : December/January S&amp;T Review

1. From an S&T perspective, the December/January review--with one significant exception--nearly duplicated that observed during the previous surveys. The number of articles included under the S&T umbrella increased during December/January (105 or approximately 50 per month versus approximately 35 per month during November and October); the NID had 51 items, the NIB had 21 items, and the DIN had 23 items. The quality of the S&T items was mixed; some were factual regurgitations of raw intelligence, others were well done. About half the articles surveyed had no KIQ relationship, one fourth had a peripheral relationship to the KIQs and one fourth had a significant KIQ relationship--this latter one fourth will be discussed below. Articles treating a given subject more often than not appeared in at least two of the three publications reviewed--frequently in all three "national level publications." Many articles in the NIB appeared nearly verbatim in NID. This was not the case in reverse since the NID is all source and had more than twice the number of S&T articles.

2. The number of items addressing nuclear proliferation resulted in the significant exception noted above. Twenty-two articles--perhaps an unwarranted proliferation itself--treated the subject but, on balance, most were worth reporting and accounted for a good proportion of the items characterized as having a significant KIQ relationship. While one might take exception to verbal shading, the articles on proliferation reflected an amalgamation of technical and political analysis. Often times intelligence problems--such as nuclear proliferation--are examined only with the technical data available or conversely with only a political perspective. The items on

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nuclear proliferation during December and January did not suffer from this deficiency. The DIN, NIB, and NID on

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[redacted] capability claim and the two NIDs that wrapped-up nuclear proliferation in late January demonstrated political/technical integration, good presentation, and crisply stated, rather than waffled, intelligence judgments. The treaties on [redacted] proliferation, while useful, lacked firmness on the issue whether [redacted] might or might not be taking a public position on nuclear proliferation quite contrary to their internal government position. Finally, the nuclear proliferation articles should be recognized for their utility regarding current US policy initiatives, i.e., bilateral safeguard/safety discussions and a proposed nuclear exporters conference.

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3. Generally speaking, most items characterized under the space rubric--with the exception of the DIN and NID articles on Soviet ocean-surveillance satellite developments--were reportorial. An overall assessment of the Soyuz-16 Mission would seem more appropriate for the national level audience than the before, during, and after treatment the mission received. Similarly, greater concentration on the problems and prospects for the upcoming joint Apollo-Soyuz project scheduled for next July would be more useful than the orbit by orbit accounting noted in the current intelligence literature.

4. While current intelligence analysis means different things to different consumers, the argument that current intelligence should be instantaneous is less valid, in general, for scientific issues. Technical articles are less perishable but demand to be treated in depth with an enlarged scope beyond the scientific discipline itself. In this light, the following are recommendations how scientific contributions to current intelligence might be improved and areas--because of their notable absence during the survey--that could have been usefully included in the future:

- Since the DIN, NIB, and NID are the publication organs for the political analysis components, the inclusion of an editor responsible for scientific affairs--serving as an advocate for technical articles--would help guarantee that significant technical issues would not go unreported in the national level intelligence publications. The major newspapers and the weekly news magazines all have science editors.

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- The DIN was the only current publication to treat the BW/CW topic, even though in a piecemeal fashion. An overall assessment of Soviet BW intentions with respect to the 1972 BW Convention may warrant current intelligence treatment.
- Articles on VIP physical and psychological health were treated in the NIB and NID, but other life science issues were noticeably absent with the exception of the NID on Java rice farming. Agro-technology and population problems, while reported in other technical intelligence publications, would be appropriate items for the NID or NIB if placed in a larger perspective.
- The US bilateral scientific agreements are of considerable interest to the national level intelligence consumer but have not been addressed in national level current intelligence. Assessments on how various US/USSR scientific agreements are proceeding would seem useful, as would an evaluation on the Soviet's ability to assimilate US technology. These subjects have been, in part, addressed in technical intelligence publications, but not for the national level consumer.

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